

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-21, 35-44, 47-51 and 61-82 are currently pending in the application. Claims 62-71 and 73-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-13, 35 -38, 44 and 47-51 are rejected by Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a). Claims 15-21, 61 and 72 are allowed. Claims 14 and 39-43 are objected to. Applicants have amended claims 1, 35, 62-71 and 73-82. Applicants have canceled claims 2-14 and 36-39.

Applicants appreciate Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter in Claims 14-21, 39-43, 61 and 72.

**Co-pending Applications Assigned to Common Assignee**

Applicants wish to bring to Examiners attention the following co-pending applications, which are assigned to the same assignee as the instant application, and which are drawn to technically related inventions.

Application serial number 10/044,360, titled "Novel Hydrotalcites, Syntheses and Uses" is a continuation-in-part of the instant application and is drawn to hydrotalcites that are intercalated with amino acids, processes for synthesizing hydrotalcites intercalated with amino acids, and blends of amino acid intercalated hydrotalcites with polymers.

Application serial number 10/043,934, titled "Manufacturing Inorganic Polymer Hybrids" is drawn to manufacturing polymer hybrids that are blends of polymers and hydrotalcites by exfoliation of the inorganic material prior to blending with the polymer material. Exfoliation is obtained by solvent molecules embedded or introduced into the interlayer spaces of the inorganic material.

**Amendments**

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable dependent Claim 14.

Applicants have canceled Claims 2 to 14.

Applicants have amended Claim 35 to incorporate the limitations of allowable dependent Claim 39.

Applicants have canceled Claims 36 to 39.

Applicants have amended Claims 62 to 71 to replace polyolefin with polystyrene.

Applicants have amended Claims 73 to 82 to replace polyolefin with polyvinylchloride.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph**

Examiner rejected Claims 62 to 71 and 73 to 82 over the lack of antecedent basis for the recitation of "polyolefin." Applicants have amended Claims 62-71 to replace "polyolefin" with "polystyrene", and amended Claims 73 to 82 to replace "polyolefin" with "polyvinylchloride."

Applicants respectfully submit that the current amendments to Claims 62 to 71 and 73 to 82 overcome the rejections. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)**

Examiner rejected Claims 1 to 13, 35 to 38, 44 and 47-51 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a). Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 35.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 14. Applicants have canceled Claims 2-14. Applicants respectfully submit that the current amendment overcomes the rejections of Claim 1. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended Claim 35 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 39. Applicants have canceled Claims 36 to 39. Applicants respectfully submit that the current amendment overcomes the rejection of Claim 35. Applicants further respectfully submit that because Claims 40 to 44 and 47 to 51 depend from Claim 35, these claims are neither anticipated nor obvious. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks have overcome or rendered moot all grounds for rejection or objection. There being no other rejections or objections, Applicants believe that the application is in a condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request prompt action on the claims and allowance of the application. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned agent directly.

**AUTHORIZATION**

Applicants believe that no extension of time is required to make submission of this response timely. However, in the event that an extension of time is required, Applicants hereby submit a petition for such extension of time as may be necessary to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the necessary fees to deposit account No. 502194. A duplicate of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC



Matthew P. McWilliams  
Registration Number: 46,922

Buchanan Ingersoll PC  
1835 Market Street, 14th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2985  
Ph: (215) 665-3865  
Fax: (215) 665-8760  
**Date: April 16, 2004**

**Customer No. 041068**

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